

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 1, 2005. Claims 145, 146, 149 to 151, 153 to 155, 158 to 160, 162, 163, 166 to 168 and 172 to 175 are pending in the application, with Claims 101 to 144, 147, 148, 152, 156, 157, 161, 164, 165 and 169 to 171 having been cancelled. Claims 145, 153, 154, 162, 163 and 172 to 175 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

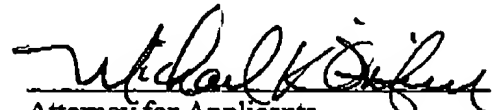
Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 145, 149, 150, 153, 154, 158, 159, 162, 163, 167, 168 and 172 to 175. In addition, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 145/146, 145/151, 153/155, 153/160, 154/155, 154/160, 162/166 and 163/166 would be allowable if rewritten to exclude dependency on rejected claims.

In keeping with the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended each of Claims 146, 151, 155, 160 and 166 to exclude dependency on rejected claims. Consequently, Claims 146, 151, 155, 160 and 166 as amended are seen to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 101 to 144, 144/146, 144/151, 147, 148, 152, 152/155, 152/160, 156, 157, 161, 161/166, 164, 165, 169, 170 and 171 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,443,890 (Schulze). Claims 101 to 144, 147, 148, 152, 156, 157, 161, 164, 165 and 169 to 171 have been cancelled, and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance. In particular, a divisional application is being prepared, to pursue the rejected subject matter.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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